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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,976	07/11/2003	Takao Murakami	06753.0554	2868

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Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/616,976

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11, line 5 " recites "flexible locking arms ";

Claim 11, line 7 recites "a single flexible locking arm is positioned to each of the chambers".

It is unclear how many locking arms the connector has. If "a single flexible locking arm is positioned to each of the chambers", hence it should be only locking arm specifically disposed on the housing. On the other hand, if a single locking arm locks all of the chambers, what a function of a plurality of "flexible locking arms".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamanashi et al.

With regard to claim 1, Yamanashi et al (US 6,390,849) disclose a connector comprising:

a connector housing (2) including a chamber defined by a wall and configured to receive a terminal; and
a flexible locking arm (26) having a first portion (27) and a second portion (24) supported by the wall and configured to lock with the terminal between the first and second portions.

Claims 1, 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatagishi et al

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With regard to claim 1, Hatagishi et al (US 5,700,162) disclose a connector comprising:

a connector housing (60) including a chamber defined by a wall and configured to receive a terminal; and
a flexible locking arm (66-68) having a first portion (18) and a second portion (16) supported by the wall
and configured to lock with the terminal between the first and second portions, wherein the flexible locking
arm extends obliquely (portion 68) from a top wall (63b) of the connector housing.

With regard to claim 5, Hatagishi et al disclose that the wall includes opposed sidewalls, and a
first top wall (63a) extending between the sidewalls.

wherein the second portion is supported by the top wall of the chamber.

With regard to claims 6, 7, Hatagishi et al disclose that the chamber has an opening configured to fit
the terminal in the opening, shaped in a plane rectangle.

With regard to claims 8, 9 Hatagishi et al disclose that the locking arm includes a second top wall (63b)
configured to cover the opening and the terminal includes a projection (71) covered with the second top
wall (63b).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3,, 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be
allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any
intervening claims.

Claim 12 is allowed.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including
the locking part being supported by the wall (claim 12);

the flexible locking arm extending obliquely from a top wall of the connector housing,

wherein the first portion of the flexible locking arm being supported by a the first
sidewall of the housing (claim 2).

Response to Arguments

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Applicant's arguments filed 12/28/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regard to claim 1, Applicants argue that the prior art (Hatagishi et al.) disclose that the locking arm (65,66,67) is supported by the top wall (63a) of the connector housing (61) not by the top wall of the chamber. .

However, according to claim 1, "a connector housing includes a chamber defined by a wall". Since, the top wall of the housing and the top wall of the chamber is the same element (Fig. 1 of Hatashi et al), the rejection deems to be correct.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/16/2005

Alexander Gilman

ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER